Rock Creek Pharmaceuticals Discloses Filing of Provisional Patent Application For Isolated Anatabine Isomer

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GLEN ALLEN, Va., Feb. 9, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Rock Creek Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Star Scientific, Inc. (Nasdaq: CIGX [1]) announced that on February 4 a provisional patent application was filed with the Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") for administering a pure form of a single isomer of anatabine, "S-(-)anatabine". This isomer can be administered in a composition containing a therapeutically effective dose of anatabine to treat chronic low-level inflammation. Low-level chronic inflammation has become an increasingly significant area of scientific research during the past decade. ***Time*** magazine, in a February, 2004 cover story entitled "The Secret Killer – The Surprising Link Between Inflammation and Heart Attacks, Cancer, Alzheimer's and Other Diseases", described chronic inflammation as the "engine that drives many of the most feared illnesses of middle and old age."

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The provisional patent application discloses that S-(-)-anatabine is useful in reducing the inflammatory activity that results in elevated blood levels of inflammation markers such as C-reactive Protein ("CRP"). Inflammatory markers like CRP can be used by physicians to aid in deciding a course of treatment for an individual at risk for an inflammatory disorder or disease, as well as in determining doses of anatabine to be administered and in monitoring treatment of various inflammatory diseases. S-(-)-anatabine has the potential to be particularly useful for treating disorders involving inflammation that is associated with Nuclear Factor-KappaB (NF-kB) mediated transcription. NF-kB is a transcription factor that operates in cells and participates in the immune response. NF-kB mediated transcription is a
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